

## SoBRA AGM – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### Chair’s Report

#### **Executive Committee 2022**

Simon Cole (AECOM)	Chair
Jo Wilding (CEA)	Vice Chair
Jo Wilding (CEA)	Secretary
Rachel Dewhurst (Stantec)	Treasurer
Mel Evans (Soilfix)	Website and membership
Allyssa Glen (WSP)	Early career professionals
Tim Rolfe (YES Environment)	Ordinary Member
Lawrence Bowden (Geosyntec)	Ordinary Member
Jenny Mullen (Exploration Testing)	Ordinary Member
Olayinka Ekundayo (Brent Borough Council)	Ordinary Member
Christopher Taylor (National Grid)	Ex-Officio Member (Accreditation)

There have been a few changes to the Executive Committee this year. Olayinka and Jenny both decided to end their term early due to changes in work employment and commitments. Mel Evan’s current 3-yr term on the EC also ends at the end of this year. Nomination invitations for the three vacant positions on the EC for 2023 were advertised to members in September and were confirmed at the AGM. Four nominations were received – from Kate Baker of Delta Simons, Mel Evans of Soilfix (standing for a second term), Greg Gibson of Leeds City Council, and Rae Watney of Sheffield City Council. Kate, Mel and Greg were duly elected following the results of the membership vote in October.

#### **Membership**

At the last EC meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022, it was confirmed that SoBRA had 611 members. The figure for last year was 541 so it is fantastic that we have increased our membership over the year.

#### **Finances**

According to the audited accounts for the financial year 2021-2022 the society’s finances were as follows:

Bank £42,623.55
PayPal £16,161.60
<b>Total £58,785.15</b>

Outstanding liabilities – none.

Future anticipated liabilities – cost of Winter Conference at Burlington House in partnership with RSC Toxicology Group TBC

The outcome of the independent audit of the society's finances will be presented at the AGM. This year the audit has again been kindly carried out by Simon Firth of Firth Consultants.

## Activities

Since January 2021 the SoBRA Executive Committee has:

- Held 4 committee meetings (all held virtually with the exception of a hybrid meeting in Hydrock's Birmingham office on 30<sup>th</sup> August) – 19<sup>th</sup> January, 30<sup>th</sup> March, 5<sup>th</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> August
- Organised a successful summer workshop (held at the Priory Rooms in Birmingham on 22<sup>nd</sup> June): "The Climate Emergency – Practical Considerations for Brownfield Risk Assessment". The event was to be a hybrid event but the online part had to be cancelled due to lack of online ticket sales. Event proceeded as an in person event only.
- Held two accreditation scheme application windows (January and August). There were 14 applicants in total, 12 applying for RSoBRA and 2 applying for ASoBRA. Accreditation was awarded to 11 of the applicants (9 for RSoBRA and 2 for ASoBRA).
- Organised the December conference jointly with the RSC Toxicology Group and the AGM
- Represented SoBRA at the National Brownfield Forum and NQMS steering group meetings
- Maintained collaborative working with other industry organisations by ongoing collaboration with RemSoc, supporting the Energy Institute in various projects by participating in EI Soil Waste and Groundwater Group meetings, and presenting on the Controlled Waters and Climate Change publication at various events.
- The early careers sub-group has held six new early careers webinars in 2022 in association with the Scottish Contaminated Land Forum. These have been on an Introduction to Human Health GAC, an Introduction to GAC, Ground Gas Monitoring, NAPL Diagnostic Gauge Plots, Choosing Laboratory Analysis Methods, Foundation Works Risk Assessment, and Introduction to the RTM Worksheet. The webinars are free to members and non-members and the recordings of these webinars are freely available on the SoBRA website <https://sobra.org.uk/resources/early-careers-webinars/>.
- Agreed to fund a post-doctorate research project at the University of Greenwich on NAPL mobility to support the work of the NAPL sub-group. Work due to start in January 2023.

SoBRA currently has the following sub-groups as detailed below.

<b>Sub-group</b>	<b>Group Lead</b>	<b>EC Sponsor</b>
Vapour Intrusion	Mel Lyons (RSK Geoscience)	Jo Wilding
Ground Gases	Steve Wilson (EPG)	Simon Cole
NAPL	David Holme (Geosyntec)	Mel Evans
Controlled Waters and Climate Change	Helen McMillan (RSK Geoscience)	Simon Cole
CSM and Statistics	Hannah White (NG)	Rachel Dewhurst
Early Careers	Aliyssa Glen (WSP)	Aliyssa Glen

Details of the sub-group activities can be found on the sub-group pages of the SoBRA website at <https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/sub-groups/>.

### **Society Publications**

The NAPL sub-group published guidance on Baildown Tests for Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids in May. The Controlled Waters and Climate Change sub-group published guidance with the same name in August, and the Vapour Intrusion sub-group published compiled Guidance Notes on for Assessment in Contaminated Land Scenarios in the UK in September. All these publications are available on the resources pages of the SoBRA website at <https://sobra.org.uk/resources/reports/>.

We are also pleased to be able to host the CLEA Info-Maps developed by Chris Dainton of Peak Environmental Solutions. This publication can be accessed on a new page on the SoBRA website at <https://sobra.org.uk/resources/other-publications/>.

### **Acknowledgements**

SoBRA's Executive Committee and sub-group members work entirely on a voluntary basis and it is largely thanks to their hard-work (and of their predecessors) that has made SoBRA the well respected and successful society that it is today. Much of the work related to SoBRA activities is done by our volunteers in their spare time, working in the evenings and weekends. On behalf of SoBRA, I would like to thank them all for their considerable efforts.

I would also like to extend particular thanks to our sub-group leaders, whose enthusiasm and encouragement have helped to harness the skill and energies of the subgroup members. I would also like to thank Chris and Marlene for continuing to administer the Accreditation

Scheme and the scrutineers who volunteered this year. The scheme would not run without the dedication of these members.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all our members for your continued support. As well as your loyalty and interest, your subscription and event fees have helped to build up funds that allow us to offer subsidised places at events, as well as offer bursaries, scholarships, and research grants to promote the furthering of risk assessment knowledge and practice.

### **Future Activities**

SoBRA's programme of activities for next year will be determined by the newly constituted Executive Committee when it meets in early 2023. I expect the Committee will continue to develop SoBRA's programme of workshops and end of year conference, and provide continued support to the sub-groups in their endeavours. The society will also continue to progress the accreditation scheme since this underpins the objective to improve the quality of risk assessments, and I look forward to the outputs from the sub-groups in the coming year.

### **Closure**

It is a huge privilege to have chaired this society for the past two years, and thanks to everyone's efforts I think that SoBRA is a society that we can all be proud of.

I now hand over the role of Chair to Jo Wilding for 2023 – good luck Jo!

Simon Cole

SoBRA Chair 2022

12<sup>th</sup> December 2022